



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: June 5, 2006  
Week Ending: June 4, 2006  
CWP WA-CW2306

## Overall Crop Conditions Improve as Rain Continues

### Field Crops

The rain continued to improve crop conditions. Overall winter wheat, spring wheat and barley conditions were in mostly good to excellent condition. Winter wheat continued to head out. Sweet corn growers continued planting but were delayed by the rain. There were some reports that potatoes, peas and onions were affected by the wind and rain in Benton County. Whitman County had some reports of damage to pulse crops from the heavy rains. Damage to the first cutting of hay increased due to continued rain. Some hay producers continued to hold off cutting until drier weather.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 1% very poor, 7% poor, 18% fair, 62% good, and 12% excellent. Pasture condition improved and livestock producers continued moving cattle from spring pastures to summer pastures.

### Fruit and Vegetables

Yakima reported some hail damage to fruit crops. Strawberry harvest has begun and berry growers were busy applying herbicide for grass and broadleaf control.

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	4.8
Last Week	3.8

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	0	5	77	18
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	2	20	76	2
Subsoil	0	11	87	2
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	4	27	68	1
Irrigation Water	0	0	98	2
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	3	8	89	0
Hay & Roughage	1	25	70	4

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2005	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Emerged	100	96	100	100
Spring Wheat Headed	11	5	36	22
Winter Wheat Headed	58	38	83	56
Barley Emerged	100	90	100	99
Barley Headed	11	3	16	13
Potatoes Planted	100	98	100	100
Potatoes Emerged	95	80	93	96
Corn Planted	97	89	99	98
Corn Emerged	86	66	86	70
Dry Edible Beans Planted	99	83	92	78
Alfalfa Hay 1st Cutting	57	40	74	68

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	1	5	21	58	15
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	10	64	26
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	5	31	57	7
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	12	73	15
Barley Dryland	0	16	24	50	10
Barley Irrigated	0	0	5	75	20
Potatoes	0	1	31	68	0
Corn	0	3	32	65	0
Dry Edible Beans	0	0	23	77	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

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# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Clallam/Jefferson:** The weather was mostly cloudy with showers, and the temperature was in the 50's with the low in the 40's. Planting was on schedule in some areas even with the cooler temperatures.

**Clark:** Strawberry harvest began. The weather looked good for fruit quality.

**Grays Harbor:** Heavy rain showers combined with unseasonably cool temperatures continued to delay sweet corn germination and growth. Christmas tree growers applied insecticides and fungicides to Grand fir and continued to monitor Noble fir for aphid infestations. Forage harvest was limited due to the wet conditions.

**Grays/Lewis/Pacific:** Steady rain showers kept most fieldwork to a minimum. Field corn was virtually all planted, but sweet corn was another story as the cannery planting dates did not match up with the warm dry weather. Everyone was waiting for fields to dry out so planting could resume. Some forage was harvested, but conditions were mostly too wet for any major cutting. The rain caused rapid grass growth. With the 4-5 inches of rain the past two weeks crops should really take off when/if the sun comes out.

**Mason:** Intermittent rain during the week accumulated to 1.3 inches of precipitation. The rain was great for the grass but tough for gardening. Fields were wet, muddy and weedy. As soon as the rain ends producers will be spraying and mowing to catch up. The total rainfall for the year to date is 43.4 inches.

**Pierce/S. King:** The weather was humid and conducive to disease. Rains with subsequent wind that dried foliage occurred later in the week. Growers should continue to monitor crops for disease.

**Pierce/S. King (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Crop conditions were good with newly planted crops getting water. There were no unusual situations to report and no crop damage due to weather conditions.

**Skagit:** The majority of the potato growers in the valley were done planting potatoes. There were a few growers in the Bow area trying to get in their final acres on wetter soils that were rained out again this week. The rains were becoming excessive. Corn, green peas, potatoes, spinach and beet seed were all emerging in the Skagit Valley. Cabbage was in full bloom. Many farmers, especially strawberry growers were hopeful for some sunshine. Berry harvest has begun and many people were flocking to the local stands to get a taste of fresh strawberries.

**Snohomish/N. King:** The weather continued to be wet. The Stanwood area farmers reported that corn still needed to be planted, and the grass silage will be harvested late. There were only a few days of sunshine.

**Thurston:** Unseasonably cool weather with sporadic rain showers continued to delay crop growth due to the lack of heat units. Truck gardeners reported slow growth of warm season vegetable crops due to the lack of sunshine. Turfgrass growers were unable to do any field cultivation due to wet soils. By the same token, they did not have to activate irrigation systems. Livestock producers were unable to harvest forage or make haylage because of wet weather. Christmas tree growers were applying fungicides and insecticides to Grand firs. Home gardeners complained that vegetable gardens were not growing due to the lack of sufficient heat units.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The weather was very wet for early June. Producers may have to make haylage bales again this year, although they prefer to have the square two-twine bales because they're easier for feeding cattle and sell for a better profit. Cattle probably do better with the haylage though.

**Whatcom:** A few showers barely slowed the planting of silage corn and seed potatoes. Emergence of earlier plantings was apparent throughout the county. Berry growers applied herbicide for grass and broadleaf control

## Central

**Benton:** Showers continued throughout the week. Cherries in the eastern areas of the county were damaged, and hay that was down was damaged by the rain. There were reports of potatoes, onions, and peas being affected by the wind and storms during the past several weeks. The cool weather slowed down crop growth. The heat during the week of May 14-20 killed the tops of the dry land wheat crop.

**Franklin:** The weather was mild and rainy during the week. Many timothy hay fields cut prior to rain were likely damaged.

**Grant:** Seventy percent of the first cutting of alfalfa and orchard grass hay was damaged by multiple rain events. Cherry cracking prevention sprays were applied in the southern areas of the county.

**Grant (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain received over the weekend caused further damage to the first cutting of alfalfa. Bean and sweet corn planting continued.

**Kittitas:** More periodic rain and mild temperatures were good for growers and rangeland pastures. Irrigated pastures exhibited tremendous production this spring with the addition of unusual spring rain.

**Okanogan/Ferry:** Scattered precipitation was received ranging from 0.2 inches to 1.0 inches on Friday and Sunday. The majority of the cattle have been moved to summer ranges. Pasture grass looked good due to the past weeks of rainfall. Livestock water conditions also looked good. About 25 percent of alfalfa growers have swathed their hay crop. The rest of the growers were waiting for conditions to dry up in order to begin cutting.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures varied from three degrees below normal to six degrees above normal, with 0.48 of an inch of precipitation. Some producers were still trying to get the first cutting of hay baled and out of the field. Also, several producers reported hail damage to fruit crops.

## Eastern

**Adams:** It was another good week for grain growers but a bad week for hay producers as over an inch of rain was received throughout the county. The rain improved prospects of an above average grain yield for both winter and spring crops.

**Adams (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Good measurable precipitation was recorded over the weekend (0.87 inches) near Ritzville. Spring cereal crops improved and were in mostly good condition. Winter wheat conditions remained unchanged. Precipitation benefited the winter wheat crop, but frost damage, above average temperatures during mid-May, and late planting because of dry fall conditions last year will limit the yield potential.

**Asotin:** Timely rains fell across the county throughout the week, and moisture appeared adequate in most locations. An inch or more of rain fell in the higher locations. The rain aided pastures in the lower elevations and were beneficial to late seeded spring crops.

**Asotin/Garfield:** Rain improved crop and rangeland conditions. Winter wheat was heading in the lower elevations.

**Garfield:** The wheat was in early anthesis. There was some frost damage to winter wheat and some barley yellow dwarf virus showing up. Overall, winter wheat was in good condition and improving with the moisture received. If the current level of moisture keeps up wheat yields have the potential to be average or above average.

**Lincoln:** Good measurable precipitation was recorded over the weekend. Spring cereal crops improved with 75 percent being in good to excellent condition. Winter wheat conditions also improved. Precipitation benefited the winter wheat crop, but weed pressure and above average temperatures during mid-May will limit the yield potential.

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** The rains were great for the winter and spring wheat.

**Pend Oreille:** The high temperature during the week was 80 degrees and the low temperature was 32

degrees. Precipitation received was 1.15 inches. With the wet weather, pastures were growing fast and hay fields were up 6-8 inches. Livestock were grazing with few needing hay. Calves were growing strong. Several horse ranchers have new colts. Weaner pigs were abundant this year.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** It was a week with rain and more rain. Up to an inch of rain was reported which was 0.75 of an inch more than normal. The crops looked mostly good but could use some warmer weather for good growth. Winter wheat was starting to head out in a number of areas. A few hay growers cut some hay that has been washed, but most growers were holding off for a longer dry time to cut.

**Stevens:** Rain during the week was helpful.

**Stevens (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain fell off and on during the week with 0.50 of an inch of accumulation falling on Sunday. Crops looked good. Hay growers were waiting for haying weather.

**Stevens (3<sup>rd</sup> Report):** The weather was wet with temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees. No hay was cut yet.

**Walla Walla:** Light scattered showers made for good growing conditions. Rained on hay was not in very good shape. There was some delay in cutting to avoid the rain. Livestock grazing looked good.

**Walla Walla (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Crops continued to look good. Cool temperatures helped crops. Heavy showers were helpful to all crops except hay. Northwestern sections of the county were still trying to recover from heavy storms from the weekend of May 19. There were reports of extensive damage to orchards.

**Whitman:** Heavy rains hit the area over the weekend causing some washouts and erosions. Rainfall was welcomed but as much as 0.50 to 0.75 of an inch came too fast. There were reports of damage to pulse crops. Spring cereals seemed to have held up better as they were further along in development and held the soil better.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

June 5, 2006

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
<b>WEST</b>															
Bellingham	40	75	58	3	60	16	4	-1	0.79	0.30	4	31.33	-0.61	98	152
Everett	46	71	60	4	72	22	7	0	1.02	0.49	5	29.86	-2.23	93	155
Hoquiam	45	72	59	4	63	24	3	3	1.25	0.65	5	68.87	5.50	109	175
Kelso	41	75	61	4	75	23	11	4	1.01	0.45	4	41.86	-0.42	99	147
Olympia	39	75	60	4	69	27	7	4	1.54	1.12	3	51.83	4.74	110	146
Sea-Tac	46	73	61	3	78	20	11	4	1.52	1.15	4	36.07	2.07	106	145
Shelton	38	73	59	0	64	6	4	-6	0.57	0.10	2	67.67	6.45	111	152
Tacoma	41	72	60	2	70	12	7	0	0.35	-0.07	1	38.18	1.63	104	135
Vancouver	44	77	63	5	91	35	21	12	1.07	0.58	3	41.57	3.67	110	144
<b>CENTRAL</b>															
Ellensburg	40	81	63	4	91	29	21	8	0.33	0.19	3	11.57	3.74	148	84
Omak_AP	40	84	61	4	82	25	16	4	0.19	-0.16	4	13.94	1.75	114	87
Stampede Pass	39	70	53	9	29	22	0	0	1.31	0.54	5	66.49	-8.49	89	161
Wenatchee	47	81	64	1	97	7	27	-1	0.44	0.30	3	6.87	-0.28	96	61
Yakima AP	37	82	61	1	81	5	21	2	0.48	0.34	3	9.43	2.47	135	73
<b>NORTHEAST</b>															
Colville	41	80	61	4	79	23	18	6	0.90	0.48	5	17.81	0.18	101	99
Deer Park	36	82	59	2	65	10	13	3	1.27	0.92	4	25.54	9.65	161	118
Republic	38	78	57	3	51	13	5	-2	0.67	0.25	2	15.75	3.55	129	93
Spokane AP	45	83	61	4	79	22	21	10	1.13	0.78	3	17.42	3.38	124	106
<b>EAST CENTRAL</b>															
Ephrata	43	88	64	-1	100	-1	30	-6	0.53	0.39	2	9.32	3.06	149	72
Moses Lake	39	86	63	-3	918	-10	23	-13	0.69	0.55	3	11.15	4.89	178	86
Quincy	42	80	63	1	92	5	23	-3	0.56	0.42	2	11.59	4.78	170	86
Ritzville	41	83	59	1	66	7	15	3	0.51	0.32	2	14.08	4.13	142	91
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>															
Hanford	44	91	66	-2	116	-6	46	-6	0.97	0.89	2	5.79	0.06	101	46
Pasco	46	93	66	1	116	8	46	5	0.65	0.51	2	9.03	2.38	136	72
Pullman	46	80	62	7	88	44	24	17	0.85	0.49	2	12.56	-5.66	69	99
Walla_Walla_Rgn	46	88	65	2	108	15	38	7	1.02	0.71	3	19.92	2.65	115	106
Whitman Miss.	41	89	64	4	103	22	37	14	0.47	0.26	3	16.31	4.35	136	113
<b>ID PANHANDLE</b>															
Coeur D'A' AP	39	84	60	2	74	10	25	12	0.36	-0.14	3	9.59	-12.46	43	80
Lewiston ID	47	85	66	4	111	23	44	18	0.37	0.02	2	10.43	0.50	105	85

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2005

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches. Precipitation Days =

Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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National weather summary: <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/waobr/weather/2006/summary/weth1606.pdf>

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